



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

LISA WEBB SHARPE  
DIRECTOR

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## **Buy Michigan First initiative to boost in-state business**

LANSING – Buy Michigan First, an initiative to connect small business owners with state contracting opportunities, will be presented at 14 events across the state. The innovative program will guide Michigan business owners through the vendor registration process and help them compete for contracts that make up Michigan's \$11.6 billion portfolio.

"Buy Michigan First carries forward Gov. Jennifer Granholm's effort that directs state government to give contracting preference to Michigan businesses whenever possible," said Lisa Webb Sharpe, director of the Department of Management and Budget. "Michigan's workers and products are the best in the nation, and we're committed to spending citizens' tax dollars in Michigan first."

Buy Michigan First will build awareness of opportunities to supply state government with commodities, services, information technology, highway construction, and building design and construction. It also aims to boost the number of bid submissions from minority- and woman-owned businesses and those operated by disabled owners and service-disabled veterans.

Buy Michigan First events will be held on the following dates and locations:

- Thursday, April 13, 5 p.m. – Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor
- Thursday, April 20, 8 a.m. – Mott Community College, Flint
- Tuesday, April 25, 5 p.m. – Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor
- Tuesday, May 9, 5 p.m. – Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse City
- Wednesday, May 10, 9 a.m. – Bay de Noc Community College, Escanaba
- Wednesday, May 10, 2 p.m. – Alpena Community College, Alpena
- Tuesday, May 16, 8 a.m. – Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids
- Tuesday, May 16, 12 p.m. – Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kalamazoo
- Thursday, May 18, 12 p.m. – Delta College, University Center
- Thursday, May 25, 8 a.m. – Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills
- Thursday, May 25, 12 p.m. – Macomb Community College, Warren
- Wednesday, June 7, 12 p.m. – Lansing Community College, Lansing
- Thursday, June 8, 8 a.m. – Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn
- Thursday, June 8, 5 p.m. – Wayne County Community College, Detroit

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Interested business owners may register for the free events at [www.michigan.gov/buymichiganfirst](http://www.michigan.gov/buymichiganfirst). They will find links to vendor registration information as well as a list of current contracts.

Buy Michigan First is a collaborative effort of state government and Michigan economic groups. Partners include the Governor's Office, Department of Management and Budget, Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation, Department of Information Technology, Department of Civil Rights, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center, and Procurement Technical Assistance Centers throughout Michigan.

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